

We claim:

1. A network device for generating print data in accordance with information resources received from outside, and sending said print data to a printer,

characterized in that print related information necessary for generating said print data is appropriately acquired from a prescribed location on the network at a prescribed time; and

said print data is generated by using said acquired print related information, and sent to said printer.

2. A network device according to Claim 1,

characterized in that said information resources are appropriately acquired from a prescribed location on the network.

3. A network device according to Claim 1,

characterized in that said information resources are either image data, text data, or intermediate data generated in the process of generating print data.

4. A network device according to Claim 1,

characterized in that said prescribed time is either when said printer is tuned on, upon receipt of instructions from a user, or upon receipt of said information resources.

5. A network device according to Claim 1,

characterized in that said print related information comprises at least either a color conversion table, printer driver program, font data or font renderer program.

6. A network device according to Claim 1,

characterized in that said print related information is classified under at least two groups in accordance with the priority of acquisition thereof.

7. A network device according to Claim 6,

characterized in that the print related information classified under a high-priority installation group comprises at least either a color conversion table, printer driver program, basic font data or basic font renderer program.

8. A network device according to Claim 6,

characterized in that the print related information classified under a low-priority installation group comprises at least either a program for interpreting a format of said information resources to be received, font data of the font which is included in said information resources or the font renderer program of said font.

9. A network device according to Claim 6,

characterized in that said network device, concerning a

memory area for storing print related information, classifies and manages the storage area for each of said groups.

10. A network device according to Claim 6,

characterized in that said network device, concerning print related information under a low-priority installation group, appropriately deletes the print related information at a prescribed time.

11. A network device according to Claim 1,

characterized in that said network device, upon acquiring print related information, accesses a server providing location information of the print related information, and inquires for the location information on the network of the print related information.

12. A network device according to Claim 1,

characterized in that said print related information is acquired in case that said print related information which has already been contained in said network device is judged to be different from said print related information which has been contained in a prescribed location on said network.

13. A network device according to Claim 1,

characterized in that said print related information is

acquired in case that said print related information which has already been contained in said network device is judged to be required to be replaced with said print related information which has been contained in a prescribed location on said network.

14. A network device according to Claim 12,  
characterized in that said network device makes said judgement by itself.

15. A network device according to Claim 13,  
characterized in that said network device makes said judgement by itself.

16. A network device according to Claim 12,  
characterized in that said judgement is made at a prescribed location on said network.

17. A network device according to Claim 13,  
characterized in that said judgement is made at a prescribed location on said network.

18. A network device according to Claim 1,  
characterized in that the print related information acquired from a prescribed location on said network is retained in said network device, and said print related information is

held to be available until it is deleted.

19. A network device according to Claim 1,

characterized in that if, upon acquiring said print related information from a prescribed location on said network, said network device comprises preceding print related information corresponding to said print related information which is acquired, said preceding print related information is deleted.

20. A network device according to Claim 1,

characterized in that the print related information which is acquired from a prescribed location on said network contains information concerning a prescribed location on said network to be accessed upon the next acquisition of said print related information.

21. A printer for generating print data in accordance with the information resources received from outside, and executing the printing,

characterized in that the print related information necessary for generating said print data is appropriately acquired from a prescribed location on the network at a prescribed time; and

said print data is generated and printed by using said acquired print related information.

22. A printer according to Claim 21,

characterized in that said prescribed time is either when said printer is turned on, upon receipt of instruction from a user, or upon receipt of said information resources.

23. A printer according to Claim 21,

characterized in that said print related information contains at least either a color conversion table, printer driver program, font data or font renderer program.

24. A printer according to Claim 21,

characterized in that said printer, upon acquiring print related information, accesses a server for providing location information of print related information, and inquires for location information on the network of the print related information.

25. A printer according to Claim 21,

characterized in that said print related information is acquired in case that said print related information which has already been contained in said printer is judged to be different from said print related information which has been contained in a prescribed location on said network.

26. A printer according to Claim 21,

characterized in that said print related information necessary for generating said print data is acquired in case that said print related information which has already been contained in said printer is judged to be required to be replaced with said print related information which has been contained in a prescribed location on said network.

27. A printer according to Claim 25,

characterized in that said printer makes said judgement by itself.

28. A printer according to Claim 26,

characterized in that said printer makes said judgement by itself.

29. A printer according to Claim 25,

characterized in that said judgement is made at a prescribed location on said network.

30. A printer according to Claim 26,

characterized in that said judgement is made at a prescribed location on said network.

31. A printer according to Claim 21,

characterized in that print related information acquired from a prescribed location on said network is retained in said printer, and said print related information is held to be available until it is deleted.

32. A printer according to Claim 21,

characterized in that if, upon acquiring said print related information from a prescribed location on said network, said printer comprises preceding print related information corresponding to said acquired print related information which is acquired, said preceding print related information is deleted.

33. A printer according to Claim 21,

characterized in that print related information which is acquired from a prescribed location on said network contains information concerning a prescribed location on said network to be accessed upon the next acquisition of said print related information.

34. An information processing method of a network device for generating print data in accordance with information resources received from outside, and sending said print data to a printer, and including;

a step for judging whether or not said print related information should be acquired at a prescribed time,

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a step for appropriately acquiring said print related information from a prescribed location on the network upon judging it should be acquired; and

a step for generating said print data by using said print related information to be acquired, and sending said print data to said printer.

35. A program for executing in a computer an information processing method according to Claim 34.

36. A location information distribution server comprising a database for storing location information on the network concerning print related information which is used to generate the print data, and

characterized in that upon inquiry of location information of print related information, the corresponding location information is extracted in reference to said database, and sent.